

REMARKS

Applicant has amended Claims 18 to clarify that the light-emitting unit is contained within the housing, amended Claim 36 to recite that the apparatus further comprises a suitable control unit, and cancelled Claim 40. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed. For example, support for the amendment to claim 36 may be found at paragraph # [0043]. Entry of the claim amendments and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Office Interview

The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Ralph Lewis for his courtesies during the Office Interview conducted on July 14, 2004.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection to Claim 36 has been overcome by its amendment. As amended, Claim 36 recites that the apparatus further comprises a suitable control unit.

Claim Rejections Based on Prior Art

Applicant notes that during the Office Interview, it was agreed that the prior art does not disclose that the light-emitting elements are thermally connected with the housing. Applicant has amended Claim 18 to emphasize that the light-emitting elements are contained within the housing. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 18 and all its dependent claims, and Claim 27 are free of the prior art and are in condition for allowance.

It was further agreed that Claim 39 is free of the prior art because the recited feature that the two planes are separated by a distance that corresponds to the length of the light-emitting elements is not found in the prior art. Applicant has cancelled Claim 40.

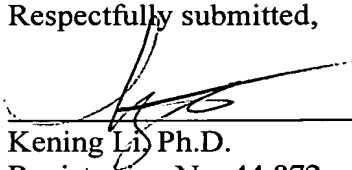
Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit the Examiner to so indicate. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Application No. 10/070,642
Reply dated July 22, 2004
Response to Office Action dated April 6, 2004

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (CAM #: 010746.50916US).

July 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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